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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary
SUBJECT Economic; Political; Sociological
HOW PUBLISHED Daily, weekly newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED Budapest
DATE PUBLISHED 19 Dec 1951 - 8 Jan 1952
LANGUAGE Hungarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951 - 1952

DATE DIST. 21 Feb 1952

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REVIEW OF BUDAPEST NEWSPAPERS
19 DECEMBER 1951 - 8 JANUARY 1952

The following review is based on the 19 December 1951 - 8 January 1952 issues of the Budapest newspapers Szabad Nep, Nepszava, Vilagossag, Magyar Nemzet, Fuggetlen Magyarorszag, Kis Ujsag, Szabadsgazdasag, Szabad Szo, Szabad Ifjusag, Uj Ember, and Uj Elet.

Economic

Agitation for plan fulfillment in 1952 was the dominant economic theme during the period under review. The leading daily newspapers devoted the bulk of their space to this drive, which overshadowed all other economic matters in importance. Within the scope of the main theme a secondary one, a concerted attack on poor work discipline, took shape. Leaders in the producers' cooperatives (henceforth cooperatives) were singled out for severe stricture (also see Matyas Rakosi's speech below), but absenteeism, a lackadaisical attitude, loafing on the job, and unsatisfactory quality of products in industry and the coal mines were also sharply criticized.

The parliament debated and approved the 1952 budget practically as submitted by the Minister of Finance. The budget debate followed a pattern. The budget of each government department was submitted by a government spokesman and his report was followed by the speech of another member of the parliament. No significant figures, with the exceptions noted below, were published, and the speeches, as reported by the press, were largely restricted to the presentation of achievements in the fields of the departments in question during 1951. Occasionally the second speaker recommended a nominal increase in a detail of the departmental expenditures and the change was approved and incorporated in the budget on the spot.

The main exception to this pattern was the budget of the Ministry of Finance, in connection with which the following data was published: national expenditures total 42,480,970,000 forints and revenues 42,769,727,000 forints, showing a surplus of 288,757,000 forints; 26.2 percent of tax revenues will consist of turnover taxes (in the 1950 budget the ratio was approximately 64

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percent); 15.5 billion forints were appropriated for investments; and revenues from the profits of state enterprises are budgeted at 5.5 billion forints. It was also brought out that the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture will be more than double the 1951 appropriation and that over 2 billion forints were appropriated for metallurgy and the machine manufacturing industry. However, it was not stated whether the latter figure is included in the 15.5-billion-forint investment program.

Following closely on the Roder movement, the Deak movement, named after Janos Deak, a foreman in the MAVAG (Iron and Steel Works of the Hungarian State Railroads), was inaugurated during the last week of the year. The aim of the movement is to organize shop foremen for greater strictness in dealing with laxity and slipshod work in the plants.

On 28 December, Matyas Rakosi delivered a speech in Budapest dealing with conditions in the cooperatives. The highlights of his speech are: (1) he recommended a slowdown in the collectivization of agriculture and advised against the use of threats in driving the independent peasants into cooperatives; (2) he called for strict measures against loafers in the cooperatives and recommended that per-capita rations in the cooperatives should be discontinued and that all profits be distributed on the basis of work units alone.

The 28 December issue of Nepszava gives the following data on cooperatives: From January 1950 to December 1951, the number of cooperatives increased from 46,000 to 350,000, the area cultivated by cooperatives from 250,000 to 1,500,000 cadastral yokes, the number of tractors from 3,500 to 8,500, and the value of property owned by cooperatives by 1,000 percent. The value of work units earned by cooperative members increased from 17.50 forints to 25.24 forints per unit during 1951.

In the 6 January issue of Nepszava a long article deals with Hungary's foreign trade objectives in 1952. During 1952, Hungary's aims are to import mostly raw and semifinished materials and to increase exports of finished products, primarily machinery. Trade with other orbit countries, particularly with the USSR, will be stepped up and trade with the West will be continued. The quality of export products has been disappointing throughout 1951, and numerous large machines were rejected by foreign enterprises because of defects and poor workmanship. For this reason, the quality of export goods must be improved considerably.

The 1,200-meter-long Dunafoldvar bridge was opened for railroad and highway traffic on 20 December. The bridge is 17 kilometers from Sztaalinvaros (Dunapentele) and will form an extremely important economic and military link between the Great Plain and the trans-Danubian region.

Political

Attacks on the US were the most important issue in the political field, continuing the trend of the latter part of November 1951.

Vyshinskiy's anti-US speeches at the UN meeting in Paris were given several pages in nearly all issues of the leading newspapers, with accompanying vehement comments.

The propaganda technique of quoting US sources criticizing various aspects of American policy or life continued at an increased rate. A few typical excerpts follow. "Corruption in the US administration has reached record proportions The Cotton Trade Journal writes: 'Immorality and corruption start from the top and spread downward.' According to the New York Times, Congress can be bribed regardless of party affiliation

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Every member of Congress is in someone's pocket." (Szabad Nep, 29 December)
In reference to the plane incident "the Chicago Tribune said, 'Similar incidents will be avoidable if the US will refrain from provocations.'" (Vilagos-sag, 29 December.)

Scant space was devoted to the US plane incident. Szabad Nep, for example, mentioned it briefly three times: (1) on 22 December, a short communique of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was published, stating that the fliers would be tried in court; (2) on 24 December, an MTI (Hungarian News Agency) report stated that the fliers had been sentenced; and (3) on 30 December, an article was published accusing the US of bad faith for closing the Hungarian consulates at New York and Cleveland, stopping the issuance of passports to Hungary, and breaking off trade relations with Hungary in retaliation for the incident. The article also mentioned briefly that the fine of 120,000 dollars had been paid by the US.

The 4 and 5 January issues of Nepszava published the full text of Stalin's New Year's message to the Japanese people, addressed to K. Riyoshi Iwamoto, managing editor of the Kyodo News Agency. According to a Tass report quoted in Nepszava, Stalin's message was not mentioned in any American newspaper. Nepszava was the only Budapest newspaper which published the Stalin message; none of the other newspapers contained any reference to it.

Religion

The Christmas message of the Hungarian Protestants "to the Christians of the world," signed by a number of bishops, includes the following passage: "Unfortunately, there are people who have been blinded by years of war propaganda and have become, wittingly or unwittingly, the tools of warmongering American finance capital. The poisoned tools of this capital include a campaign of slander against eastern European and Asiatic countries We appeal to you to fight the hypocrisy which mocks Christian principles and stirs up hatred between the peoples and churches." (Magyar Nemzet, 22 December.)

While the Hungarian Catholic weekly, Uj Ember (New Man), consistently refrains from anti-US propaganda, the Jewish weekly Uj Elet (New Life) has had at least one pro-regime and anti-US article in each issue for the past several months.

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